GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016
Improvement in Healthcare under PRIs
Galla Shri Jayadev

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in spite of fifty percent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) not much improvement could be achieved in the field of healthcare such as maternal and infant mortality rate etc. in the country particularly in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the Government proposes to coordinate with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Women and Child Development to ensure more/ better participation of women in healthcare activities in villages under PRIs;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if not, the other measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NIHAL CHAND)
(a) & (b): Maternal and infant mortality rates depend on several factors including overall delivery of health and child care services, which are not solely under the control of Panchayats. There is fifty percent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in 19 States. Reservation for women is aimed at empowering women and making Panchayats gender friendly.
(c) to (e): Anganwadi Centres act as the hub of activities of various departments including Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Woman and Child Development, such as pre-natal and anti-natal care, nutrition, immunization etc. to address these issues. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has provided inputs/suggestions to the Ministry of Woman and Child Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on their various schemes to ensure inclusive engagement of PRIs. MoPR has also issued various advisories and instructions from time to time and prepared reading material for PRI representatives in this regard.